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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	Before the Examiner:
Shepherd Shi et al.	:	Cindy Nguyen
Serial No.: 09/740,226	:	Group Art Unit: 2171
Filed: December 19, 2000	:	IBM Corporation
Title: APPARATUS FOR INDIRECT	:	IP Law Department
DIRECTORY SEARCHES AND METHOD	:	Internal Zip 4054
THEREFOR	:	11400 Burnet Road
	:	Austin, Texas 78758

**THIRD REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

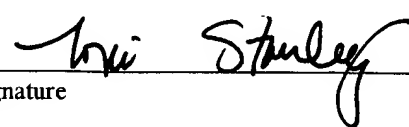
Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of October 20, 2003 (Paper No. 9), with a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 20, 2004, please reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following remarks:

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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 19, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Toni Stanley

(Printed name of person certifying)